

# Farm Report

Cooperative Crop Reporting Service



NO. 185

RALEIGH, N. C. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE JUNE 14, 1955

## N. C. INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS UP 2 POINTS

*Livestock And Livestock Products Index  
At Lowest Level Since May 1950*

The "All Farm Products" index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets increased 2 points (less than 1 percent) during the month ended May 15, 1955.

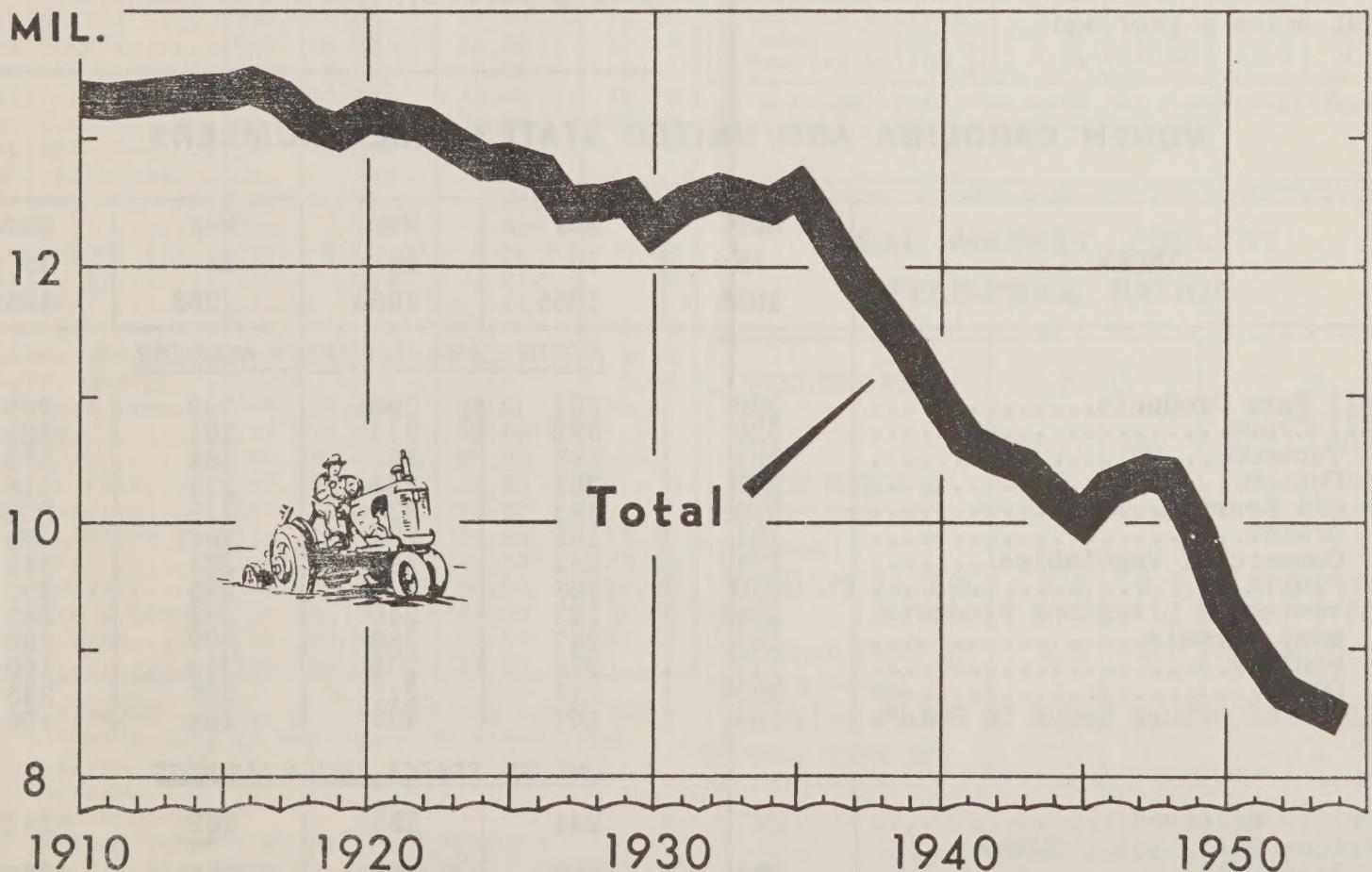
Higher prices received for cotton, commercial vegetables and strawberries  
(Continued on Page 2)

## U. S. PRICES RECEIVED AND PARITY INDEX DOWN SLIGHTLY

The Index of Prices Received by Farmers at 244 percent of its 1910-14 average in mid-May was 1 percent (3 points) below a month earlier and 4 percent below a year earlier. Lower prices for beef cattle, strawberries, milk, and eggs were leading contributors to the decline in the index during the past month. Sharp price increases for a number of commercial vegetables and moderate in-

(Continued on Page 2)

## WORKERS ON FARMS





## N. C. PRICES *(Continued)*

were primarily responsible for the index's increase. The May index of 301 compares with an index of 299 a year earlier and an index of 290 for May 15, 1953.

The "Livestock and Livestock products" index dropped to 223 due to lower chicken and milk prices. This marks the lowest point reached by this index since May 15, 1950.

## U. S. PRICES *(Continued)*

creases in grain prices were only partially offsetting.

Price reductions of some farm production goods dropped the Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Interest, Taxes, and Wage Rates (Parity Index) nearly 1 percent during the month ended May 15. The most important element in the change was the further decline in prices paid for feeder livestock. Average prices paid by farmers for consumer goods remained unchanged. At 282, the Parity Index was nearly 1 percent lower than a year ago, and below the corresponding month a year earlier for the first time since January 1954.

With both indexes declining, the Parity Ratio remained at 87, three percent below a year ago.

## N. C. PEACH CROP DESTROYED BY FREEZE

This year's peach crop in North Carolina will be too small to warrant a production forecast at this time. A few isolated commercial and home orchards are expected to produce small quantities of fruit, but practically all of the trees are completely bare as the result of the severe freeze in late March. Production in 1954 was estimated at 1,150,000 bushels, and the 10-year (1944-53) harvest is placed at 1,742,000 bushels.

The freezing temperatures were equally destructive in all of the 10 southern peach producing States where the crop was virtually destroyed. These 10 States normally produce approximately 65 million bushels.

*Meat production through the first four months of this year was 7 percent above a year ago. The increase in slaughter from last year is slowing, however, and production for the year as a whole is expected to be up about 3 to 4 percent.*

## NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS

INDEX	Apr. 15 1955	May 15 1955	May 15 1954	May 15 1953	May 15 1952
<i>NORTH CAROLINA INDEX NUMBERS</i>					
All Farm Products.....	299	301	299	290	305
All Crops.....	320	322	316	301	322
Tobacco.....	393	393	390	363	389
Cotton.....	277	283	281	273	316
Oil Bearing.....	345	345	322	315	322
Grains.....	181	182	183	196	195
Commercial Vegetables.....	271	292	240	284	311
Fruits.....	330	366	330	295	256
Livestock & Livestock Products.	226	223	240	252	244
Meat Animals.....	247	247	330	309	330
Poultry.....	217	213	205	236	199
Dairy.....	223	218	212	229	235
Ratio of Prices Rec'd to Paid*.	105	107	105	104	105
<i>UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS</i>					
Prices Received.....	247	244	255	263	291
Prices Paid, Int., Taxes & Wage Rates.....	284	282	284	280	290
Parity Ratio.....	87	87	90	94	100

\*Ratio of N. C. Prices received for all farm products to U. S. Prices Paid.



# **MOST FEED PRICES GENERALLY STEADY TO LOWER**

## **Feed-Price Ratios For Eggs, Farm Chickens And Turkeys Up**

Prices paid by North Carolina farmers for most feed items were generally steady with some items being slightly lower during the month ended May 15, 1954. Average prices paid for mixed dairy feeds and high protein content feeds were costing farmers slightly less. All other items, except scratch grain and the poultry ration which showed slight

## **PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS**

COMMODITY	UNIT	N. C.		U. S.
		APR. 15	MAY 15	MAY 15
		1955	1955	1955
<u>DOLLARS</u>				
CORN.....	BU.	1.61	1.64	1.40
WHEAT.....	BU.	2.12	2.11	2.13
OATS.....	BU.	.93	.90	.72
BARLEY.....	BU.	1.22	1.22	1.07
RYE.....	BU.	2.20	2.25	1.06
SORGHUM GRAINS...	CWT.	2.60	2.60	2.39
SOYBEANS.....	BU.	2.70	2.76	2.36
PEANUTS.....	LB.	.139	.139	.125
COTTON.....	LB.	.335	.342	.315
COTTONSEED.....	TON	60.00	58.00	53.10
WOOL.....	LB.	.52	.52	.469
HOGS.....	CWT.	16.80	16.90	16.40
BEEF CATTLE.....	CWT.	12.60	12.30	16.30
VEAL CALVES.....	CWT.	18.50	18.80	17.20
SHEEP.....	CWT.	5.00	5.00	5.95
LAMBS.....	CWT.	20.20	18.00	18.20
MILK COWS.....	HD.	94.00	100.00	147.00
CHICKENS, ALL....	LB.	.274	.260	.251
COM'L BROILERS...	LB.	.285	.265	.268
TURKEYS.....	LB.	.31	.315	.284
EGGS.....	DOZ.	.375	.380	.338
MILK, WHLSE. 1/...	CWT.	5.20 2/	5.00 3/	3.62
RETAIL 4/.....	QT.	.214	.212	.203
BUTTERFAT.....	LB.	.47	.47	.567
POTATOES.....	BU.	-	-	2.23
SWEETPOTATOES...	BU.	3.25	3.45	3.15
APPLES, COM'L....	BU.	-	-	3.06
LESPEDEZA SEED...	CWT.	22.40	22.00	19.80
KOREAN.....	CWT.	19.00	19.00	-
KOBE.....	CWT.	27.00	26.00	-
COM. & TENN.....	CWT.	28.00	28.00	-
SERICEA.....	CWT.	30.00	30.00	-
HAY, ALL BALE 5/.	TON	33.70	34.40	22.20
ALFALFA.....	TON	42.50	43.00	23.30
LESPEDEZA.....	TON	36.00	36.00	29.80
SOYBEAN & COWPEA	TON	32.00	34.00	32.00
PEANUT VINE.....	TON	23.50	27.00	27.80
OTHER.....	TON	32.00	32.00	-

1/ Estimated average prices for the month for all milk sold at wholesale to plants and dealers.

2/ Revised.

3/ Preliminary.

4/ Sold by farmers direct to consumers.

5/ The all hay price is the weighted average of separate kinds including an allowance for minor kinds.

increases, were unchanged from the previous month.

All the local market feed-price ratios were up from last month except broiler-feed which was down due to a drop in average prices received for commercial broilers.

## **FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS**

FEED PER HUNDREDWEIGHT	N. C.		U. S.	
	APR. 15	MAY 15	APR. 15	MAY 15
	1955	1955	1955	1955
<u>DOLLARS</u>				
MIXED DAIRY FEED UNDER 29% PROTEIN				
ALL.....	4.05	4.00	3.87	3.83
16% PROTEIN.....	3.90	3.85	3.79	3.76
18% PROTEIN.....	3.95	3.90	3.84	3.81
20% PROTEIN.....	4.30	4.20	4.09	4.03
24% PROTEIN.....	4.30	4.20	4.24	4.18
29% & OVER.....	4.85	4.85	4.63	4.55
HIGH PROTEIN FEEDS				
LINSEED MEAL....	-	-	4.56	4.45
SOYBEAN MEAL....	4.80	4.55	4.45	4.35
COTTONSEED MEAL.	4.05	4.00	4.26	4.20
MEAT SCRAP.....	5.20	5.10	5.11	5.01
GRAIN BY-PRODUCTS				
BRAN.....	3.50	3.50	3.08	3.07
MIDDLINGS.....	3.75	3.75	3.24	3.33
CORN MEAL.....	4.60	4.60	3.69	3.68
CORN GLUTON.....	-	-	3.55	3.50
POULTRY FEED				
LAYING MASH.....	5.10	5.10	4.70	4.68
SCRATCH GRAIN...	4.45	4.50	4.25	4.27
BROILER GROWING MASH.....	5.20	5.20	5.13	5.08
POULTRY RATION 1/	4.25	4.26	3.73	3.74

1/ Average of prices paid for commercial feeds and prices received for grain.

## **LOCAL MARKET POULTRY FEED-PRICE RATIOS**

POULTRY FEED PRICE RATIO 1/	N. C.		U. S.	
	April	May	April	May
	1955	1955	1955	1955
Egg-Feed (Poultry Ration)	8.8	8.9	9.6	9.0
Farm Chicken Feed 2/ Broiler-Feed (Broiler Mash)	4.9	5.0	5.5	5.4
Turkey Feed 2/	5.5	5.1	5.6	5.3
	7.3	7.4	7.8	7.6

1/ Pounds of feed equal in value to one dozen eggs, one pound farm chicken, one pound broilers and one pound turkeys.

2/ Poultry ration.



## POULTRY AND EGG OUTLOOK

### EGGS

Egg production for the next 2 or 3 months is likely to continue above a year earlier, in line with the 3 percent more layers on farms May 1. By late summer, however, there will be fewer birds in the laying flock because of the sharp decline in the number of chickens being raised this year. In the last 4 months of 1955, egg production may be 5 percent or more below the same period of 1954.

Prospects for reduced output and strong consumer demand in the fall indicate that, unlike 1954, prices for eggs in the last half of the year will rise at least seasonally and perhaps more. These prospects have induced storers of shell eggs to build up larger stocks than a year ago. Storage of frozen eggs, on the other hand, has been running below last year; stocks in 35 cities in mid-May were 5 percent under a year earlier.

Farmers' prices for eggs have declined slowly since mid-March and in mid-May were close to the levels of a year earlier. Prices probably will remain close to year-ago levels until the seasonal rise begins, if storage demand remains strong for the remaining weeks (until early July) when current production will continue to include a surplus for storage.

### BROILERS

Broiler prices have shown a small net decline since mid-April because of the larger volume of production coming on the market. Slaughter in the middle of May came from earlier chick placements which in 22 important States averaged 19½ million weekly, compared with January-March slaughter based on placements averaging 18 million weekly. Broiler chicks placed during April, which will be slaughtered about July averaged above 21 million per week and placements continued about as high to mid-May. On the basis of eggs in incubators, placements are likely to continue high for several weeks more.

### TURKEYS

Sales of turkeys by farmers are at

a seasonally low volume, but reported prices in wholesale markets indicate an appreciable seasonal price increase for stored heavy toms and a slight increase for other stored turkeys since January. Storage stocks are below a year earlier, and if the out-of-storage movement continues at the recent rate stocks will be considerably below last year when the marketing season begins for the 1955--crop heavy turkeys.

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### N. C. EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in North Carolina during April is estimated at 147 million. This represents a seasonal decline of 2 percent from the 150 million eggs laid in March but is 4 percent above the 141 million in April of 1954 and is the highest April lay of record. The average number of layers on hand during April at 8,152,000 which April total has been exceeded only in 1952. Production of 1,806 eggs per hundred layers establishes a new record high for the month.

Closer culling along with improved feeding and breeding practices, all contribute to the continued upward trend in rate of lay.

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### CHICK PRODUCTION UP

The output of chicks by commercial hatcheries in North Carolina during April was estimated at 9,394,000 chicks. The April production was 14 percent above the output for April a year earlier and about 29 percent above the 1949-53 average production of 7,294,000 chicks.

For the United States, chick production during April was 11 percent smaller than a year ago and 9 percent below average. The number hatched during the month totaled 270,442,000 compared with 304,188,000 in April last year and the 1949-53 average of 296,275,000. Of the 270,442,000 chicks hatched in April, 114,741,000 were for broiler production and 155,701,000 were for other purposes.





## LEAF TOBACCO STOCKS LARGER THAN A YEAR AGO

Tobacco dealers and manufacturers in the United States and Puerto Rico held leaf tobacco inventories totaling 4,818 million pounds (farm-sales weight), on April 1, 1955. Compared with April 1 a year earlier this represents an increase of 279 million pounds. Larger stocks of the flue-cured and Burley types accounted for most of this increase. The 1954 crop of about 2,265 million pounds was in stocks by April 1 with the exception of an estimated 60 to 70 million pounds made up principally of Maryland and Puerto Rican types. Approximately 370 million pounds were marketed during the first quarter.

For the southern types, flue-cured stocks were 6 percent higher than on the previous April 1, Burley stocks showed a sizeable increase of 9 percent and Maryland holdings were up 4 percent. The quantities of fire-cured and dark air-cured tobaccos on hand this April 1 were each slightly above a year earlier. For the cigar leaf types, inventories of filler leaf were about 3 percent above the level of a year ago while holdings of the binder types and shade-grown leaf were very nearly the same. Stocks of foreign-grown cigarette leaf were up 4 percent compared with the previous April 1, and of the foreign cigar leaf types, holdings of Cuban (Havana) leaf were up slightly.

Included in stocks as of April 1, 1955, were 902 million pounds (farm-sales weight) of leaf tobacco under government loans. Of this total flue-cured loan stocks were 339 million pounds; Burley, 443 million; fire-cured, 52.3 million; dark air-cured, 37.5 million; Maryland, 13.4 million; and cigar leaf, 16.3 million.

*Prices received by farmers for milk during April were above a year earlier for the first time in 2 years. A larger proportion of milk was going into higher priced fluid outlets and manufacturing milk prices were up slightly. Prices are not likely to change significantly through the rest of the year.*

## N. C. POULT HATCHINGS

### CONTINUE TO DECLINE

The number of heavy breed poult hatchlings during April totaled 12,635,000 compared with 13,855,000 during April last year--a decrease of 9 percent. The number hatched during the first 4 months was down 13 percent from the number hatched during these same months last year. Light breed turkeys hatched during April totaled 1,717,000 compared with 2,344,000 in April last year--a decrease of 27 percent. The number of light breed turkeys hatched January through April totaled 5,213,000, compared with 7,623,000 during the same months last year--a decrease of 32 percent.

The number of heavy breed turkey eggs in incubators on May 1 was estimated at 22,860,000, or slightly more than 1 percent above the 22,583,000 in incubators on May 1 last year. The number of light breed turkey eggs in incubators on May 1 was 31 percent less than on May 1 last year.

## MILK PRODUCTION ON NORTH CAROLINA FARMS, BY MONTHS, AVERAGE 1943-52 AND 1953 AND 1954

MONTH	Average 1943-52	1953 <u>1/</u>	1954 <u>2/</u>
<i>-Million Pounds-</i>			
January..	109	123	128
February.	103	116	120
March...	117	128	132
April....	129	143	147
May.....	143	158	163
June.....	142	156	157
July.....	147	162	163
August...	146	160	155
September	133	147	143
October..	126	139	137
November.	114	131	129
December.	112	132	130
YEAR	1,520	1,695	1,704

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary.





# 1954 LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER BY MONTHS 1/

MONTH	NORTH CAROLINA						UNITED STATES																													
	CATTLE			CALVES			SHEEP & LAMBS			HOGS			CATTLE			CALVES			SHEEP & LAMBS			HOGS														
	No. HEAD	LIVE WEIGHT	No. HEAD	LIVE WEIGHT	No. HEAD	LIVE WEIGHT	No. HEAD	LIVE WEIGHT	No. HEAD	LIVE WEIGHT	No. HEAD	LIVE WEIGHT	No. HEAD	LIVE WEIGHT	No. HEAD	LIVE WEIGHT	No. HEAD	LIVE WEIGHT	No. HEAD	LIVE WEIGHT	No. HEAD	LIVE WEIGHT														
	-- Thousands --																								-- Millions --											
JAN.	11.1	8,666	4.5	731	.1	9	57.0	12,119	2.1	1,976	.9	202	1.4	138	5.9	1,406																				
FEB.	10.0	7,899	4.7	804	.1	9	56.0	12,318	1.8	1,680	.9	177	1.2	123	4.9	1,140																				
MAR.	11.9	9,260	5.1	896	.1	8	62.0	13,296	2.1	1,943	1.1	217	1.3	129	5.6	1,324																				
APR.	10.2	7,932	5.1	872	-	-	54.0	11,512	1.9	1,793	1.0	199	1.2	121	4.7	1,143																				
MAY	11.3	8,929	5.5	988	.1	8	52.0	11,457	2.0	1,821	.9	208	1.2	112	4.2	1,068																				
JUNE	12.2	9,302	6.0	1,053	.1	11	48.0	10,425	2.1	1,936	1.1	248	1.4	122	4.3	1,131																				
JULY	12.8	9,661	6.1	1,107	.2	18	48.0	10,060	2.2	1,971	1.1	256	1.4	124	4.1	1,059																				
AUG.	13.8	10,477	6.2	1,153	.1	11	52.0	10,887	2.2	1,987	1.1	271	1.4	126	4.7	1,110																				
SEPT.	17.0	12,843	6.1	1,138	.2	17	58.0	12,544	2.3	2,045	1.2	281	1.5	134	5.8	1,308																				
OCT.	17.0	13,351	5.7	1,049	.1	8	55.0	11,949	2.2	2,017	1.2	279	1.5	134	6.2	1,434																				
NOV.	16.0	12,278	5.7	1,045	.1	9	64.0	13,736	2.2	1,992	1.1	247	1.3	124	7.0	1,651																				
DEC.	12.8	9,611	4.9	891	.1	9	69.0	14,493	2.1	1,997	1.1	225	1.3	128	7.4	1,783																				
YEAR	156.1	120,209	65.6	11,727	1.3	117	675.0	144,796	25.0	23,158	12.7	2,811	15.9	1,514	64.8	15,554																				

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.

## THE U. S. LIVESTOCK AND MEAT OUTLOOK

Total output of meat this year will register its fourth increase in a row and attain a new high. Pork output will be up most. Cattle slaughter for the same period will average as large or larger than last year. For all of 1955, total meat output is expected to be 3 to 4 percent above 1954.

The production uptrend is slowing, however. Hog producers in 6 States, who had made a 20 percent increase over a year earlier in December-February farrowings, reported on March 1 their plans for only a 3 percent increase in March-May and a 2 percent decrease in June-August. But the total fall crop (June-November) for the United States may be a

little larger than last year. Prices of hogs will likely be much closer to last year's prices this summer than they were in the winter and early spring.

Cattle production trends are virtually at a standstill, though the 10 percent more cows slaughtered in January-March this year than last suggests the possibility that a moderate downtrend in the cattle inventory may be commencing. But cattle feeding is at all-time record volume, having increased in response to favorable price margins realized in 1954. A seasonal strengthening is likely later in the summer. Prices of cattle off grass will likely decline seasonally during the summer.



## RECORD HIGH COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER DURING APRIL

The estimated total commercial slaughter of important species of live-stock in North Carolina amounted to 23,-222,000 pounds liveweight during April. This was the highest February kill of record. By species cattle slaughtered reached 9,421,000 pounds liveweight, the largest volume of record for the month. Calves killed during the month amounted to 854,000 pounds, about 2 percent below April 1954, while hogs killed at 12,-947,000 pounds was about 12 percent above last year.

The production of red meat in commercial slaughter plants of the United States during April totaled 1,936 million pounds. This was 11 percent less than the 2,185 million pounds produced in March, but 6 percent more than the 1,818 million pounds produced in April a year ago.

Beef production in April totaled 1,013 million pounds, 7 percent less than March, but 3 percent more than April last year.

April veal production totaled 109 million pounds. Production was 8 per-

cent less than a month earlier and 2 percent less than a year earlier.

Hog slaughter was estimated at 5,-502,700 head. This was 19 percent below the 6,778,300 head killed in March, but was 16 percent more than the 4,-724,000 killed in April last year. Hog slaughter was above a year ago in all States except South Carolina and Oklahoma which killed the same, and in Florida which killed fewer than a year ago. Lard production in April totaled 184 million pounds. Output was 17 percent less than a month ago but 20 percent more than the same month a year ago.

Sheep and lamb slaughter during April was estimated at 1,325,900 head.

Slaughter was 5 percent less than the 1,390,200 in March but 7 percent more than the 1,235,300 in April last year.

Poultry meat production in April totaled 246 million pounds ready-to-cook basis. This was 3 percent more than in March but 6 percent less than April a year ago.

### NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER\*

Species	April				January - April Total			
	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight	
	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955
	<i>Thous. Head</i>		<i>Thous. Lbs.</i>		<i>Thous. Head</i>		<i>Thous. Lbs.</i>	
N. C.								
Cattle	10.2	12.1	7,932	9,421	43.2	50.5	33,757	39,297
Calves	5.1	4.7	872	854	19.4	19.0	3,303	3,367
Sheep & Lambs					.3	.3	26	27
Hogs	54.0	58.0	11,512	12,947	229.0	242.0	49,245	53,285
U. S.	<i>Million Head</i>		<i>Million Lbs.</i>		<i>Million Head</i>		<i>Million Lbs.</i>	
Cattle	1.9	2.0	1,793	1,841	7.8	8.0	7,392	7,490
Calves	1.0	1.0	199	197	3.9	4.0	796	801
Sheep & Lambs								
Hogs	1.2	1.3	121	131	5.1	5.3	510	534
	4.7	5.5	1,143	1,319	21.1	25.0	5,012	5,932

\* Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.



# FARM REPORT

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## COMPARISON OF PRICES RECEIVED BY U. S. FARMERS AND PARITY PRICES

COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		PARITY OR COMPARABLE PRICES <u>1/</u>		AVERAGE PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	
	Apr. 15 1955	May 15 1955	Apr. 15 1955	May 15 1955	Apr. 15 1955	May 15 1955
	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Cotton, Lb.....	.3193	.3151	.3522	.3522	91	89
Wheat, Bu.....	2.09	2.13	2.51	2.51	83	85
Corn, Bu.....	1.36	1.40	1.82	1.82	75	77
Oats, Bu.....	.727	.715	.866	.860	84	83
Barley, Bu.....	1.07	1.07	1.35	1.34	79	80
Rye, Bu.....	1.06	1.06	1.69	1.68	63	63
Beef Cattle, Cwt.	17.00	16.30	21.40	21.30	79	77
Hogs, Cwt.....	16.60	16.40	21.40	21.30	78	77
Lambs, Cwt.....	19.60	18.20	23.50	23.30	83	78
Chickens, All,Lb.	.264	.251	.293	.290	90	87
Eggs, Doz.....	.359	.338	.466	.462	86 <u>5/</u>	81 <u>5/</u>
Milk, Whlse. Cwt. <u>2/</u> .....	3.75 <u>3/</u>	3.62 <u>4/</u>	4.71	4.68	85 <u>5/</u>	86 <u>5/</u>

1/ Effective parity prices as computed currently in months indicated using base period prices and indexes than in effect.

2/ Estimated average price for the month for all milk sold at wholesale to plants and dealers.

3/ Revised.

4/ Preliminary.

5/ Percentage of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices.